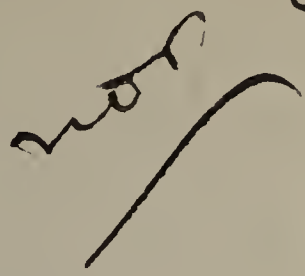


1903.



THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT

OF

ST. FAITH'S,

**Together with the Report of the Sanitary
Inspector.**

ST. FAITH'S UNION.

POPULATION : 12,753.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

BIRTHS.

There were 321 Births in the Union during the year ending December 31st, 1903. This is equivalent to the Birth rate of 25·1 per 1000 of estimated population, as compared with 26·7, the average for the past 10 years.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths during the year was 213, which is equivalent to a gross Death rate of 16·7 per 1000. But by deducting 43 deaths that occurred in non-residents—the Hellesdon City Asylum—the nett Death rate is 13·3, as compared with 13·4, the average for the past 10 years. 77 deaths, out of a nett total of 170, occurred in people over 65 years of age. It is with much satisfaction that I have to record a very great reduction in the Infant mortality during the past year. There were but 26 deaths in children under 1 year, which is equivalent to a Death rate for infants of 81·0 per 1000 births registered. During the year 1902 the infant mortality was 147·5, and for the past 10 years the average has been 130·4.

There were 10 deaths due to Zymotic Diseases, as compared with 18 in the year 1902. These included 3 from Measles, 2 from Scarlet Fever, 2 from Erysipelas, and 2 from Epidemic Influenza.

There were 9 deaths not certified, and in 10 cases an inquest was held by the Coroner.

In the City Asylum 43 deaths were registered during the year.

MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES IN THE WHOLE DISTRICT
(excluding City Asylum) per 1000 Inhabitants.

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Under 1 year	2.0	3.3	2.6
1 year to 5 years	0.5	1.3	0.6
5 „ to 15 years	0.7	0.5	0.6
15 „ to 25 „	0.4	0.8	0.4
25 „ to 65 „	3.3		
65 „ and upwards	6.0		

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR TO 1000 BIRTHS.

	1903.	Average for past 10 years.
Whole District ...	81.0	130.4

In the Parish of Sprowston there were 5 deaths in infants under 1 year, with a registration of 74 births.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES Notified and Deaths.

During the year 1903 there were 53 cases of Infectious Diseases, notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, as compared with 74 in the year 1902: 39 of these were cases of Scarlet Fever, which occurred mostly at the early part of the year, in and around the Parish of St. Faith's. In the following table are seen the number and nature of the cases of Zymotic Diseases that have occurred during the year :—

	Notified.	Deaths.
*Scarlet Fever	39	2
*Diphtheria	3	—
*Enteric Fever	6	—
*Erysipelas	3	2
*Puerperal Fever	2	—
Epidemic Influenza	—	2
Measles	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diarrhœa	—	2
*Notifiable Diseases.	53	12

There were 11 death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, of which 8 occurred in the City Asylum, and 1 death from other forms of tuberculous disease.

DEATH RATE FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS PER
1000 INHABITANTS.

Whole District (excluding City Asylum) 0.2.

There were 14 deaths from Cancer, which gives a Death rate from this disease of 1.0 per 1000 of population, as compared with 1.2 for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA :—3 cases.

All 3 cases occurred in the parish of Sprowston. 2 were removed to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and in each case tracheotomy had to be performed.

In the first case the Sanitary conditions of the house were good, and it was impossible to trace the source of the infection.

The second case occurred in "Mud Row," where it would seem to be impossible to induce the inhabitants to adopt the most elementary sanitary precautions.

The third case occurred in "Shipfields," and was apparently the result of overcrowding. The family left the house as soon as the child was removed to the Hospital, and they have since left the county.

SCARLET FEVER :—39 cases.

19 in St. Faith's. The year inherited an epidemic of this disease in the village, but during the last six months of the year no case occurred. Two cases occurred amongst the children in the workhouse.

10 in Spixworth, 8 of which occurred in one family. The children in this parish attend the St. Faith's school.

2 at Weston, where the infection remained limited to one house.

6 at Catton.

1 at Sprowston.

1 at Swannington.

ENTERIC (TYPHOID) FEVER :—6 cases.

1 at Honingham. Here a large offensive bin was found, which ventilated into the shed where the patient mixed up his pheasants' food. This bin has been reduced in size and cemented, and water gutters have been put up to carry away rain water which previously drained into the bin.

1 at Wroxham. A very mild and doubtful case.

1 at Sprowston. The patient was removed to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, where he recovered.

- 1 at Catton, in Rackham's Fields. Some very offensive pig sties and donkey stables were found here in close proximity to the house, which have since been removed.
- 1 at Haynford. In this house was discovered an old "long hopper," from which sewer gas escaped, and the soil pipe was found to lead through a bedroom and storeroom. A new pan has been fixed and the soil pipe removed to the outside of the house.
- 1 at St. Faith's Workhouse. This was imported from Norwich.

ERYSIPELAS:—3 cases.

- 1 at the "Green Man," Rackheath. In connection with the privy here was a very large floor bin containing several months' collection of liquid sewage. This has been filled in and replaced by the pan system.
- 1 at Sprowston. Some ill-ventilated and inadequately trapped drains were found here which have since received attention.
- 1 at Wroxham, in an old man who succumbed to the disease.

PUERPERAL FEVER:—2 cases.

- 1 at Drayton, where the patient had been attended by a midwife.
- 1 at Weston, where an attempt at concealment of birth was made.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA:—

- 2 deaths were attributed to this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH:—

- 1 death only occurred from this disease.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA:—

- 2 infants under 1 year died of this disease.

MEASLES:—

- During the summer months there were mild epidemics of this disease in the parishes of Swannington and Haveringland. In the whole district 3 deaths occurred from it.

LIST OF SCHOOLS CLOSED IN THE ST. FAITH'S UNION
DURING THE YEAR 1903.

Name of School.	Period closed.	In consequence of
Swannington	June 9th to July 7th	Measles.
Haveringland	June 11th to June 25th	Measles.

In each case where I advised the closing of the school I immediately notified the fact to the Local Government Board.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1903.

Extracts from notes and observations made by Mr. Arthur W. Preston, F. R. Met. Soc., at Brundall, near Norwich.

The characteristic features of the year were the extreme mildness of the weather during the first three months, only to be followed by cutting cold winds with much snow in April, and the unusual heavy rainfall during the summer months. The total rainfall for the year was 29·44 inches, and on 208 days rain fell. In the month of July the total rainfall (5·37 ins.) was greater than in any July since 1879, and with the exception of a quarter of an inch, this fell between the 18th and 30th. In October rain fell on 27 days, and the total for the month exceeded the average by 1·31 inches. The snowfall was not great, but during the month of April 6½ inches was recorded, which was more than fell during the whole of the preceding winter months.

On the whole the total rainfall was 3·26 inches above the average. The general dampness and gloominess of the last few weeks of the year made the weather of this season appear wetter than the results of the rain-guage disclosed, as in fact both November and December yielded somewhat less than the average.

The following tables show the rainfall during the year; the first from records taken by Mr. Preston at Brundall, about 7 miles east of Norwich, and therefore outside the district; the second from observations made by Mr. Cozens-Hardy, at Oak Lodge, Sprowston. Appended to the latter are some short notes kindly sent to me by Mr. Cozens-Hardy.

Observations taken at Brundall:—

		Inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
January	...	1.68	17
February	...	0.34	8
March	...	1.73	19
April	...	2.52	22
May	...	1.58	11
June	...	2.45	10
July	...	5.37	19
August	...	2.72	17
September	...	3.69	20
October	...	4.21	27
November	...	1.87	23
December	...	1.28	15
Total	...	<u>29.44</u>	<u>208</u>

Statistics kindly supplied by Mr. T. Cozens-Hardy, from observations taken at Oak Lodge, Sprowston.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 Hours.		Number of of Days on which .01 or more fell.
		Depth.	Date.	
January	... 1.48	29	... 19th	... 19
February	29	07	... 21st & 22nd	... 9
March	... 1.48	35	... 23rd	... 18
April	... 2.24	35	... 2nd	... 21
May	... 1.64	66	... 8th	... 11
June	... 2.36	68	... 15th	... 9
July	... 4.66	... 1.93	... 23rd	... 18
August	... 3.15	50	... 2nd	... 17
September	2.78	... 1.19	... 10th	... 21
October	... 5.22	75	... 11th	... 29
November	... 1.88	29	... 2nd	... 24
December	... 1.14	28	... 8th	... 15
Total	... <u>28.32</u>			<u>211</u>

June to October inclusive very wet. November also in number of wet days above average, though under average as far as total fall. About $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches more rain recorded than in 1902. February was very dry, and we had no rain from May 18th to June 12th. December also dry. 211 wet days very seldom exceeded in this parish. Average for past 60 years, $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches. 1903 is therefore nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in excess.

BAKE OFFICER :—

These have all been visited, and, generally speaking, are kept in good order. They have all been whitewashed out according to the requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. In the case of 1 bake office in St. Faith's I found a slaughter house and some piggeries in the same yard, which was far from being in a satisfactory state. The piggeries have been removed and the yard properly drained, and the conditions are now quite satisfactory.

COW SHEDS :—

In 2 instances—at Horsford and at Crostwick—cess pools were discovered inside the cow shed, and in each case its removal has been effected.

At the Meadow Farm, Newton St. Faith's, where a case of Scarlet Fever occurred in the early summer, a sink trap inside the kitchen was found to lead into a badly ventilated drain which connected with the dairy. The trap has been removed to the outside, and the drain entirely cut off from the dairy. During the time Scarlet Fever was in the house the milk was removed to a neighbouring farm.

PRIVIES :—

No less than 302 have been emptied and cleaned during the year by order of the Inspector of Nuisances, and in 19 instances bins have been filled in and replaced by the pail system.

WATER SUPPLY :—

Although the rain fall for the year has been above the average, it was not until the latter end of the year that the wells began to recover from the short supply of the previous year. As a consequence a large number—40—of wells in the district have had to be cleaned out and deepened, and in some cases new wells have had to be made,

The question as to how best to successfully deal with cases of infectious diseases occurring in the district, is one which is constantly presenting itself to me, and I much regret the unsuccessful efforts made by the Council to induce surrounding public bodies to co-operate with them in the erection of an Isolation Hospital. Anything approaching isolation in an ordinary labourer's cottage is in 9 cases out of 10 a practical impossibility, and when one is dealing with such diseases as Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever the difficulties in preventing the spread of the infection are still further increased by what are often futile efforts to overcome the ignorance and prejudice of the people in the proper use of disinfectants.

I have again to record my appreciation of the assistance I have received from the medical men practicing in the districts, and I cannot speak too highly of the zeal and energy displayed by your Inspector of Nuisances, whose report I herewith append.

SYDNEY H. LONG, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

37, St. Giles' Street, Norwich,

February 2nd, 1904.

SIR,

January 19th, 1904.

The following nuisances have been dealt with during the year 1903:—

Drains cleaned out	...	...	...	60
New drains laid	...	...	...	14
Dead wells and cesspools emptied	...	...	...	62
Privies emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	302
„ repaired	...	...	...	30
„ converted into pans	...	...	...	19
„ new built	...	...	...	14
Heaps of manure removed	...	...	...	40
Pig styes cleaned out	...	...	...	16
„ removed	...	...	...	4
Dangerous chimneys repaired	...	...	...	9
Filthy houses cleaned out	...	...	...	6
Overcrowded houses	...	...	...	4
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	39
Schools „	...	...	...	2
Slaughter houses cleaned	...	...	...	7

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION :—

Great Witchingham	...	...	...	2
Sprowston	...	...	...	1

DRINKING WATER :—

New wells sunk	...	...	...	9
Wells cleaned out and deepened			...	40
Pumps repaired	...	...	...	16

NEW HOUSES BUILT :— 696

Brandistone	...	...	...	4
Catton	...	...	...	7
Sprowston	...	...	...	6
Frettenham	...	...	...	1
Horsford	...	...	...	1

The Special Sanitary Committee met at the following places and made inspections :—

Sprowston ... March 26th, Building site.

Great Witchingham May 28th, Farm yard drainage into road.

Ringland ... August 21st, Street drainage.

Haynford ... December 31st, Building and water supply.

Local inquiry held at Great Witchingham, by Sir William ffolkes, May 27th :—House accommodation.

Prosecution :—

Ringland, drain from cow shed into road, case dismissed.

During the year the water supply in the district has been very short. A great many of the wells went dry, several of these were cleaned out and deepened and water was found. The water in the parish of Great Witchingham was found in five wells to be unfit for drinking purposes, and the owners there were asked to join in sinking one deep well, as the wells are very shallow and give only surface water. The owners did not agree to act jointly, but Miss Dunt, one of the owners, has driven a tube much below the old spring and there is plenty of water, but time must be given for the water to clear.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOX,

DR. S. H. LONG.

Inspector of Nuisances.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1893	12·018	344	28·0	40	119·0	172	14·0	...	...	172	14·0
1894	12·268	316	25·4	43	130·2	152	12·5	...	...	152	12·5
1895	12·380	383	30·9	42	109·7	178	14·1	...	...	178	14·1
1896	12·553	333	25·9	59	179·3	200	15·5	...	...	200	15·5
1897	12·616	364	28·3	48	131·8	178	13·7	...	...	178	13·7
1898	12·876	344	26·4	43	125·0	178	13·7	...	...	179	13·9
1899	13·067	331	24·9	36	108·7	154	11·8	...	...	154	11·8
1900	13·219	358	28·6	51	142·0	186	14·0	...	...	186	14·0
1901	12·559	298	23·8	33	110·7	178	14·2	47	37	141	11·2
1902	12·647	305	24·9	45	147·5	217	17·1	53	40	177	13·9
Averages for years 1893-1902		337	26·7	44	130·4	179	14·0	50	38	171	13·4
1903	12·753	321	25·1	26	81·0	213	16·7	57	43	170	13·3

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 48,304.
 Total population at all ages ... 12,559 At Census of 1901.
 Number of inhabited houses ... 2,798
 Average number of persons per house ... 4·5

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.		CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
		At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					65 and upwards.
			Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	
Diphtheria	...	3	2	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Scarlet Fever	...	39	...	7	26	5	1	...
Enteric Fever	...	6	...	...	...	2	4	...
Puerperal Fever	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Totals	...	53	2	7	27	8	8	1

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Death in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all Ages).		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whole District.	Work-house.	
Measles ...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	3	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Phthisis ...	11	...	...	...	2	8	1	11	...	8
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	14	...	...	...	1	8	5	14	...	...
Bronchitis ...	11	2	1	...	...	2	6	10	1	...
Premature Birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...
Heart Diseases ...	19	...	...	4	1	7	7	17	2	1
Accidents ...	5	1	1	1	1	1	...	5	...	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...
Senile Decay ...	41	...	...	...	...	...	41	34	7	10
All other causes ...	46	12	3	2	...	14	15	42	4	23
All causes ...	170	26	7	10	6	43	77	156	14	43